GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2781
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2015
Racial Attacks in US
Arunmozhithevan Shri A.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) have been coming under racial attacks in America during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof for each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has taken/is taking any step to check such attacks on persons of Indian origin; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) There are no clear indications to suggest racial attacks generally directed against persons of Indian origin in the United States in the last few years. However, a few incidents of attacks on persons of Indian origin have been brought to the notice of this Ministry. These are given below:

(i) On April 2, 2012 a gunman opened fire in Oikon University in Oakland, California, where one Indian student was killed;

(ii) On August 5, 2012 an incident of firing happened in a Sikh Temple in Wisconsin where six persons were killed;

(iii) On August 23, 2012, two employees working in a convenience store at Fresno, California, were attacked by assailants. In the process one was killed and the other person was injured;

(iv) One August 06, 2013, one person was shot dead in Lake Tahoe area;

(v) On February 10, 2014, one person was reportedly stabbed and robbed and was admitted to the hospital in San Francisco;

(vi) On February 6, 2015, a 57-year old Indian national, who was visiting his son in Madison, Alabama was assaulted by a Madison County Police Officer, which left him partially paralyzed;
(vii) On March 09, 2015, a dentist student was found dead in an apartment in Albany, California;

(viii) In March 2015, one young Sikh boy was racially abused in a school in Georgia; and

(ix) On September 8, 2015 one resident in the Darien city was assaulted near Chicago.

(c) & (d) Government of India is sensitive to such incidents. Missions and Posts remain vigilant and closely monitor any untoward incidents. These issues are regularly raised during meetings with the US Government officials. Government brings to the attention of US federal and local authorities any incidents seen as 'hate crimes' or racial attacks. The representatives of the Indian-American community and members of India Caucus in the US Congress and Senate have been impressed upon to take up such cases of serious assault for further investigation. The safety and security of Indians abroad is among the top diplomatic priorities for the Government of India.